

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 5, line 20, please amend the paragraph as:

CPU 344 may include a conventional microprocessor device for controlling the operation of camera 110. In the preferred embodiment, CPU 344 is capable of concurrently running multiple software routines to control the various processes of camera 110 within a multithreaded environment. For example, images may be captured at the same time that previously captured images are processed in the background to effectively increase the capture rate of the camera. In a preferred embodiment, CPU ~~244-344~~ runs an operating system that includes a menu-driven GUI and provides image processing through software, rather than hardware. An example of such software is the Digita™ Operating Environment by FlashPoint Technology of San Jose, California. Although CPU 344 is preferably a microprocessor, one or more DSP's (digital signal processor) or ASIC's (Application Specific Integrated Circuit) could also be used.

Page 6, line 21, please amend the paragraph as:

Power supply 356 supplies operating power to the various components of camera 110. Power manager 342 communicates ~~via line 366~~ with power supply 356 and coordinates power management operations for camera 110. In the preferred embodiment, power supply 356 provides operating power to a main power bus 362 and also to a secondary power bus 364. The main power bus 362 provides power to imaging device 114, I/O 348, non-volatile memory 350 and storage media 354. The secondary power bus 364 provides power to power manager 342, CPU 344 and DRAM 346. Power supply 356 is connected to main batteries 358 and also to backup batteries 360. In the preferred embodiment, a camera 110 user may also connect power supply 356 to an external power source.

Page 9, line 4, please amend the paragraph as:

Capture information tags 710 preferably include various types of information that correlate with the captured image data 810 (FIG. 8). For example, capture information tags 710 may indicate date and time of capture, focus setting, aperture setting, and other relevant information that may be useful for effectively processing or analyzing the corresponding image data 810. User tags 715 and product tags 720 typically contain various other information that may be needed for use with camera 110. In the preferred embodiment, category tags 735 are initially sixteen empty locations in which new category tags may be stored, as explained further below.

Page 9, line 11, please amend the paragraph as:

In conventional cameras that include manually applied categories, upon turning-on the digital camera, the camera must search for and open each image file stored on the storage media to load the image tags into memory to keep track of which images belong to which categories. After the category information has been loaded into memory, the digital camera sorts the images chronologically based on the date and time tags and displays the first or last N images on the LCD screen 402. Due to the length of time it may take for the digital camera to perform this operation when a high-capacity storage media containing a large number of images is used, ~~if he~~ the boot-up time of the digital camera may be significantly lengthened.

Page 9, line 11, please amend the paragraph as:

According to the present invention, the digital camera is provided with an improved categorization function. The categorization function of the present invention not only allows the user to manually apply categories to images, but also includes categorization software for both automatically categorizing images and for permanently storing the image category information in

a category list on the storage media as a means for managing the stored images. In a preferred embodiment, the categorization software may be loaded into DRAM 346 from storage media 354 or another external source, or be included as part of the camera's operating system, which is stored in nonvolatile memory 350.

Page 10, line 7, please amend the paragraph as:

Referring now to FIG. 5, a diagram of the non-volatile memory 350 is shown in the embodiment where categorization software is included as part of the operating system. The FIG. 5 diagram includes control application 500, toolbox 502, drivers 504, kernel 506, and system configuration 508. Control application 500 comprises program instructions for controlling and coordinating the various functions of camera 110. Toolbox 502 contains selected function modules including image processing backplane 510, image processing modules 512, menu and dialog manager 514, file formatter 516, analysis modules ~~512~~540, and a category manager 520.

Page 10, line 15, please amend the paragraph as:

The analysis modules ~~512~~540 are software routines for automatically analyzing and categorizing images as the images are captured. The category manager 520 creates and maintains a permanent category list listing which images belong to which categories. The analysis modules ~~512~~540 and the category manager 520 are described in further detail below.

Page 10, line 19, please amend the paragraph as:

Image processing backplane 510 includes software routines that coordinate the functioning and communication of various image processing modules ~~512~~540 and handle the data flow between the various modules. Image processing modules ~~512~~540 preferably include

selectable plug-in software routines that manipulate captured image data in a variety of ways, depending on the particular modules selected. Menu and dialog manager 514 includes software routines which provide information for controlling access to camera control menus for access to features in camera 110. File formatter 516 includes software routines for creating an image file from the processed image data.